



Neighborhood Networks Week 2005

Invite the Neighborhood. Widen the Network.



How Has My Neighborhood Networks Center Helped Enrich My Life

By Marianne Prins

The Brookside Neighborhood Networks Center has been a wonderful inspiration for me. Utilizing the computer in the manner taught by our computer instructor has provided me with a very special innovation, as I am an artist. I gained the skills allowing me, after being fully instructed as to how to use a CD Burner in conjunction with my Digital Camera, to save all of my own works of art on CDs. I learned entirely new packages, specifically the programs referred to as Print Master 15, Microsoft Publisher and Photoshop. Print Master and Microsoft Publisher taught me how to make my own Greeting Cards. What a novel idea as you can think of all kinds of new ideas in reference to designing one's own cards.

In addition, I also designed various other cards, which I call "blank cards." These I use as regular notes. Then from the Photoshop Art gallery I was able to design letters and notepapers, which could be used in correspondence to friends and family.

Apart from this, I am designing new cards, which will contain artwork depicting the Brookside landscape surrounding the apartment building. These will certainly be a lovely way to communicate visually pictures of the surrounding area of this living facility. Last Xmas 2004, I used the " Brookside Winter" (sample enclosed) as my Xmas and New Year Card.

Another area in which the computer teacher has enriched my life is by helping me with my word processing. In this media, even though I had used these skills previously, he directed me in using other methods and features which enabled me to make my work easier, more skillful, and more appealing to the eye through the use of graphics.

The day when we have computer class is a day which I look forward to, and plan ahead of time the many facets to go over and prepare myself for when we have the class. This gives me new ideas and new plans, which I can set in motion and use instructively. In order to remember the new instructions, I usually take notes and then use these new ideas during the rest of the week whenever the computers are available.

Leonard Sains, my computer teacher, is an excellent teacher and has the patience of a saint. He devotes Thursday afternoons and evenings to his class here at Brookside and spends these hours catering and teaching his students with all the fervor of a pro. What is so wonderful about the computer is that with the Internet, you have the opportunity to learn so much more and this he has seen to in every possible way.

One of the elements of the Internet is the e-mail and this in itself brings one in touch with one's family. I have many family members in Canada, the US and Europe. To be able to correspond with them on a regular basis has given me great satisfaction and joy.

Brookside had a special Arts and Crafts Show in which the various artists from the facility brought and showed their work. This was an exciting event and a surprise to see so many talented people here. In this show I displayed my Greeting Cards which had been composed in the computer class and the many



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people who attended this show revealed a great deal of interest in this. Altogether this was a very satisfactory and pleasant event.

My life certainly has become more enriched through this program as it enabled me to use these packages in so many different and various ways, and this in itself has added I would say an extra occupation in my way of life.

As a Senior Citizen I am aware of the fact that it is important to keep our minds active in every way and this is certainly being accomplished when you learn the many facets of the computer. To keep the mind busy wards off Alzheimer's Disease and undoubtedly mental lapses such as forgetfulness and perhaps some diseases as well.

I am certainly grateful in every way that I am at an age in which I can be a part of this wonderful and exciting computer age. To be able to experience the many new inventions in this category gives one a new look on life altogether, in which creativity plays an extremely special and important role.

As you can see one can definitely benefit greatly from this wonderful computer program we have here at the Brookside Neighborhood Networks Center and this has also contributed to my life in every possible way.

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Essay Contest Winner

1st Place, 65 and Above Age Group

Name: Marianne Prins
Center Name: Brookside Neighborhood Networks Center
Location: Parsippany, NJ
Age Category: 65 and Above